

STORY OF KANG YU WEI.

Romance in Which Fate of Chinese Empire and Great Powers Were Involved.

JUST ESCAPED DEATH.

Empress Dowager Fearing His Influence Over the Emperor Offered Reward for His Assassination.

Under Kang's Influence the Emperor Issued an Extraordinary Series of Edicts Many of Which Were Equivalent to a Revolution—Increased Liberty for the Press—Edict for Free Schools.

The story of Kang Yu Wei, the great Chinese reformer, is one of the great romances of the age. It is a romance in which the fate of the Chinese Empire and the high politics of the great powers of the world are involved.

Kang gained the confidence of China's Emperor and almost brought about a reform of the Celestial Empire on modern lines. Then he was checkmated by the Dowager Empress and condemned to death. Only with the aid of British war ships did he escape. There is now a reward for his assassination.

A child of the common people, whose father was a small shopkeeper, and whose grandfather was a coolie, Kang rose from obscurity by force of brains and determination alone.

When the reform movement began to break out openly in China, a year or two ago, Kang appeared at the head of it. He was a very Dr. Parkhurst. In company with the Rev. Mr. Reid, a Presbyterian missionary, he organized a club and started the first newspaper ever published in Peking, except the Official Gazette, which has been going for 3,000 years. They called the new paper Chinese Progress, and advocated reform, the adoption of modern ideas, the right of petition and the freedom of the press.

With his almost American energy and audacity, Mr. Kang succeeded in breaking through the sacred seclusion which surrounded the Emperor. He obtained admission to His Majesty's presence at all times, much to the alarm and indignation of the Empress Dowager, the Princes and all conservatives. He became a sort of tutor to the Emperor.

Kang read to the Emperor the life of Peter the Great and inspired him with a desire to emulate that remarkable monarch, who lifted Russia out of barbarism. Through Kang the Emperor also became familiar with the development of Japan, and resolved that China should not be left behind its near neighbor in the march of progress. The Emperor became so much interested in Kang's books that he had them read to him twice, and Kang's visits to the palace sometimes lasted eight hours, exciting intense anger and jealousy among the high officials.

Under Kang's influence the Emperor Kwang Su issued a series of extraordinary edicts. One of them granted the right of petition to the throne for everybody, and said that "The Board of Censors will hereafter be delighted with the special duty of receiving and presenting to His Majesty all petitions that may be presented by scholars not in office or men of the people, persons hitherto not allowed to address the throne, except through their respective Viceroy or Governors. The Board of Censors is warned not to put obstacles in the way of people who wish to communicate with His Majesty, for only through such sources can the Emperor learn the exact state of affairs throughout the empire."

This proceeding was regarded as equal to a revolution by the Conservatives. Mr. Kang was in great danger, but, nevertheless, he went ahead. He persuaded the Emperor to sign another edict recognizing the freedom of the press, which was issued on August 9, 1898. By it the editors of newspapers were granted "the special privilege of writing on political subjects in order to enlighten those in authority, and tear off the veil which hides in security the misgovernment of officials. This is the primary reason for the institution of newspapers in all countries."

It is difficult to convey an idea of the sensation this edict created. Hitherto there were no unofficial newspapers outside of the treaty ports, and any one who had the audacity to criticize an official had his head cut off, while a mere attempt to communicate with the Emperor was punished by a horrible death.

Mr. Kang is also credited with having secured an edict for the establishment of a free school system and a number of universities at the capitals of the several provinces for instruction in modern sciences. Another edict required candidates for office to be examined as to their knowledge of modern history.

He further brought about the abolition of slings and bows and arrows as weapons in the army, and also the use of fireworks and bad odors.

Wang Tu Ho, for a quarter of a century the most powerful man at court except Prince Kung, had been the Emperor's tutor, and had great influence with him. He was the leader of the conservative party, and undertook to oppose Reformer Kang, but he met with disaster. He was stripped of his offices and honors, banished from Peking and forbidden to ever enter the gates of the city again. Several others who attempted to oppose the young Canton reformer met with a similar fate, and it is believed that he, with the assistance of Kang Yen Hoon, brought about one of the numerous degradations of Li Hung Chang.

One of the great objects of Kang's policy was to bring about honesty in the financial affairs of the empire. The Empress Dowager was the greatest thief of public moneys, and it was Kang's boldness in this direction that led to his final downfall.

In 1887 the sum of \$42,000,000 was set aside for the creation of a navy. After five battle ships had been partly paid for the Empress Dowager appropriated the rest, spending a large sum on the repair of the Echo Garden. Later another \$42,000,000 was set aside for the construction of railroads, which she also largely misappropriated.

Kang fled from China, being threatened with assassination by the Empress Dowager's emissaries.

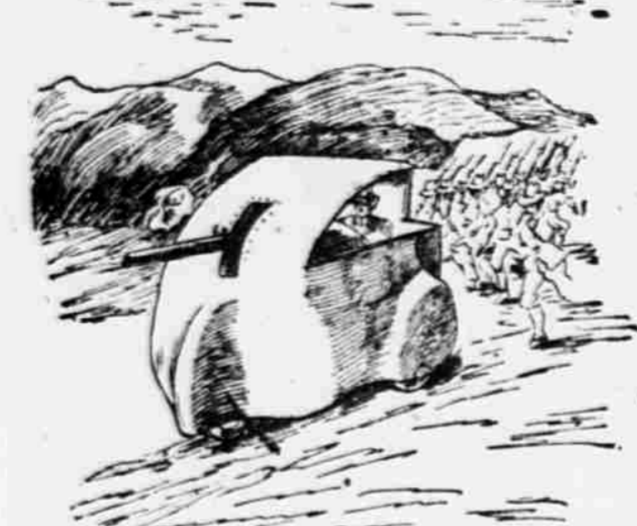
AUTOMOBILE CANNON

Major Davidson Thinks Mounting Cannon on Self-Driven Carriages the Next Step.

Dr. Maxim discovered that a machine gun could be made to act automatically. That is, the recoil of the weapon could be used to repeat the fire indefinitely. Some Frenchmen then went to work and designed a device by means of which a carriage could be made to progress with speed and smoothness without horses. Maj. Roy P. Davidson of the Illinois national guard, commandant at Northwestern military academy, has put two and two together and decided that a cannon could be mounted on an automobile carriage and made to do effective service.

Maj. Davidson has progressed so far with his idea, says the New York Journal, that he has mentally fashioned two armored gun carriages which may in time revolutionize methods in handling small machine guns and heavier field artillery. That the idea will work satisfactorily over smooth streets in cities and be a valuable adjunct in suppressing riots is beyond doubt; whether it will work as well across country and taking in all kinds of ground remains to be demonstrated.

So many things must be thought of in designing such a carriage that Maj. Davidson frankly says he is by no means out of the woods. The carriage must be light, so that with the



CANNON ON AUTOMOBILE CARRIAGE.

piece mounted and four men aboard the motive power can be generated in the machine. Electricity as a motor was abandoned by Maj. Davidson almost as soon as suggested. The motor to be used will be gasoline, compressed air or naphtha. The success of the latter with water craft has recently inspired the young inventor with the belief that it is suitable to his purposes.

The main difficulty will be to secure a power strong enough to move the heavy armored vehicle over all kinds of bad ground. The automobile carriages in use operated by electricity have power only sufficient to run the carriages with from four to eight persons as a load. Compressed air has almost no limit in power but is somewhat limited in speed. Speed is an essential in handling a battery.

It is the purpose of Maj. Davidson to go overland to New York in case he receives a gun properly mounted in time. He expects to train a company of his cadets from the Northwestern military academy to handle the gun and carriage. He says he will need at least two such guns before he can give the matter a fair test. These he will take across the country to New York.

Bismarck Contemplated Suicide.

Herr Harden, Prince Bismarck's intimate friend and companion, has caused a sensation in Berlin by the publication of some curious facts about the great German.

The most sensational revelation was that, when his political career closed, Bismarck—the monumental man of the last half of the century, the most successful of mortals, if success be measured by achievements—actually contemplated suicide.

He says: "Bismarck undoubtedly contemplated suicide as a relief from his intense sufferings, the full extent of which was only known to those about him; but he was restrained by pride.

"His own words to me were: 'People wish me long life. It is very kind of them. If they could take away my pains I also would consent to their wishes. But, as it is, my duties now consist of washing, shaving and cutting the nails of my hands and toes and such matters.

"I have become a useless member of human society. Since I can no longer go out my pleasures have been reduced to the modest dimensions of a good glass of wine, which is too often forbidden to me now, and, again, a pinch of snuff. Should one wish to live longer thus? My good wife is no longer with me.

"I am completely contented to die and long for Euthanasia. It is no longer considered respectable and moral for a man to put an end to a used-up life. It was different in classical days. We have all read of Cornelius Nepos and what he says about suicide. We have become more sentimental.

"If one were to end his life now the motive would be twisted, the wildest reports circulated. No one can blame me for not being able to do more. I have had to give up political business; the sight of the development of affairs furnishes no pleasure for me; I have too long looked on agriculture as a minor employment to let it rule my life now."

"Then, after a pause, Bismarck said: 'People do not know what it is to feel one's self slowly dying, and there are, in addition, the pains with their innumerable shades.'"

Snarks.

Some men are born poor, some achieve poverty and some thrust poverty on others.

For the amateur pugilist a pound of cure is better than an ounce of prevention.

A man never knows how little he is worth until the sheriff disposes of his property.

A miss is far better than a mile, inasmuch as she don't have to purchase hosiery for 5,280 feet.

"All things must have an end," says the proverb-maker. Yes, and all things that have one end must have two.

In childhood we are taught a great many things that we are compelled to unlearn after reaching maturity.

A writer says that a man at 60 can wear a smaller hat than he could at 20. Of course he can; with baldness the youthful swelling of the head goes down.

A GREAT FISH EXPOSITION.

The Centennial Celebration Commission of Ohio Plans a Novel Building.

FISH WITHIN A FISH.

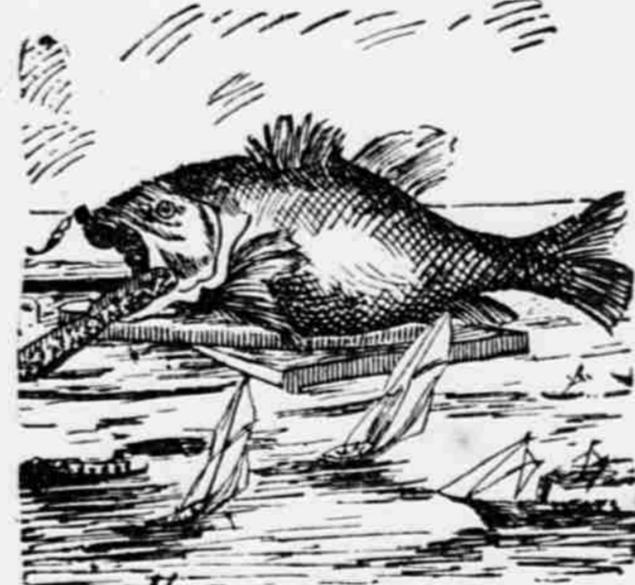
Interesting Story Comes to Light By Renewal of Patent for Such Buildings Issued to Lafferty.

First Building of This Recorded in History the Celebrated Trojan Horse—United States Patent Office Evidently Thought Lafferty Was Not Infringing on Patent Rights of Ancient Greeks.

The great Elephant Hotel, for years the greatest of the many attractions of Coney Island, is to be eclipsed in Ohio. The Centennial Celebration Commission of that State has planned to erect a building for the fisheries exhibit at the Centennial in the form of a gigantic black bass. In size, method of construction, appearance and every other way it will be greatly superior to the famous elephant.

An interesting fact has come to light since the announcement of the building of this novel structure in the application for a renewal of patents issued to James V. Lafferty, of Anderson, Ind., by his widow, Mary C. Lafferty.

Lafferty erected several of the buildings at the Centennial Exposition held at Philadelphia in 1876. Shortly afterward he was employed to construct the Elephant Hotel at Coney Island, which was the greatest marvel of that resort until it was destroyed by fire a few years ago. It was 175 feet high, measuring from the ground to the top of the band stand, 220 feet long and 60 feet wide, with a capacity of 2,000 people.



FISH WITH FISH EXHIBITION INSIDE.

The Elephant was so successful financially and otherwise, that companies were at once formed in Chicago, Los Angeles and other cities to construct similar buildings, and in order to protect his interests at Coney Island Lafferty took out a patent on the construction of buildings in the form of animals, birds and fish. The patent was granted on the understanding that but one similar structure had ever been erected. Up to the present time there has been no other, except an elephant, on a smaller scale, built by Lafferty at Atlantic City.

The one exception was the historic Horse, of Troy, the proof of whose existence is vouched for by Homer, Virgil and others. The Trojan wars, the greatest in the history of Greece, lasted some ten years, ending about 1184 B. C. Paris, son of King Priam, of that city, fell in love with the wife of Menelaus of Sparta, the beautiful Helen, and captured her, taking her to his walled city.

He was the same Paris who, according to legends, bestowed the golden apple upon the Queen of Beauty, the Judgment of Paris. The entire Greek nation was incensed and sought revenge. Nine years were spent in planning to take the city, and then an army of 100,000 warriors set sail with 1,186 ships for Troy. Headed by Agamemnon and Achilles they held a siege for nine years.

A dissension among the leaders almost brought about a catastrophe, which was averted by the strategy of Ulysses. He induced the entire army to set sail, ostensibly for home, but really for a nearby island, behind which they hid from the Trojans. They left behind a monstrous wooden horse, in which one hundred warriors were concealed.

The Trojans, seeing the enemy disappear, opened their gates, to find the horse and one lone Greek, who said that he had been left behind. He also stated that the horse was a gift from the Gods.

The horse was hauled through the city gates by the Trojans, who at once proceeded to celebrate their victory. At the height of the festivities when all vigilance had relaxed, the Greek unlocked the doors of the horse, the warriors tumbled out, murdered the sentries, and threw open the gates to the Grecian army, which awaited them outside.

The patent office authorities evidently believed that Lafferty was not infringing upon the rights of the heirs of Ulysses, and granted his patent. Mrs. Lafferty now hopes to have the patent renewed, so that the Ohio Centennial Commissioners will be obliged to pay her a royalty.

The building, as planned by them, will be far larger than the Coney Island elephant. The entrance will be through the open mouth. There will be two floors devoted to the fisheries exhibit, and the rest of the space will be given over to dancing floors, restaurants and other concessions.

Reflections of a Bachelor.

Love with women is like poker with a man—he does most of his winning while learning it.

Women know more about love than they do about loving; men know more about loving than they do about love.

Married men are rare whose pride is so strong that they can't bear to think they might have been refused when they proposed.

Every other woman you meet has either a missionary scheme that she is interested in or else a kitten that she wants you to take care of.

There is no surer way for a man to make a girl think she has got to have another man than for him to make her think he thinks he has got to have her.—New York Press.

ARTIFICIAL DAYLIGHT

Nikola Tesla's Discovery to be Put to a Practical Test.

The promise made by Nikola Tesla to the world some two years ago that he would soon give it a means of lighting its homes, its offices and its streets at night time by "artificial daylight" has been fulfilled. The invention has been entirely completed for several weeks. A day or two ago the authoritative announcement was made that contracts have already been signed with several New York business houses to equip their business places with the new light at once. The promoters of the company which is pushing the new invention are so certain of its great practical utility that they predict that it must soon supplant the arc lamp.

"Vacuum tube lighting by high frequency currents" is what Tesla himself calls it. The name, though clumsy, is sufficiently descriptive. The essential parts are a vacuum tube, and a special current of high frequency, produced by a special dynamo, of Tesla's invention. "The tubes," Mr. Tesla explains, "have had all the air pumped out, but, of course, are full of ether. The passage of this special current sets the ether in motion, forming light waves. The light differs from arc illumination in that it has no particular center. The whole tube glows and sheds a radiance like daylight all around."

The tubes, of course, are sealed tight at both ends. A wire is made fast to one end, but there is no wire inside. The tubes at present in use are about a foot long. For special purposes, such as studio illumination, street lighting and so on, they can be made any size up to a yard. The glory and the beauty of them is that their light goes all over the place to be illuminated—is as strong in the corner of a room, as directly under the tube. Hence the truth of its name, artificial daylight. A lighted tube in a room has exactly the effect of daylight flooding the windows. Notwithstanding the tube itself is not trying to the eyes. You may look steadily at it, with no evil effects whatever.

Incandescent lighting 97 per cent. of the electric current goes to making the filament hot, leaving but 3 per cent. for illumination. And this brings us to a second long advantage of the vacuum tube. It never grows hot. You may touch the glass an hour after the light is turned on and find it as cool as when first lighted. An electric bulb in like case is hot enough to scorch, not to mention giving headaches to the luckless mortals who happen to sit directly underneath or beside it.

The tubes can be attached to the electric light fixtures in common use, but cannot be illuminated by the ordinary current. Or rather they can be made to glow with it, but the process is too costly. That was one thing that made the wise men doubtful in the beginning. A few of them thought Tesla might probably perfect his light process, but were firm in the belief that it would remain too costly for commercial use.

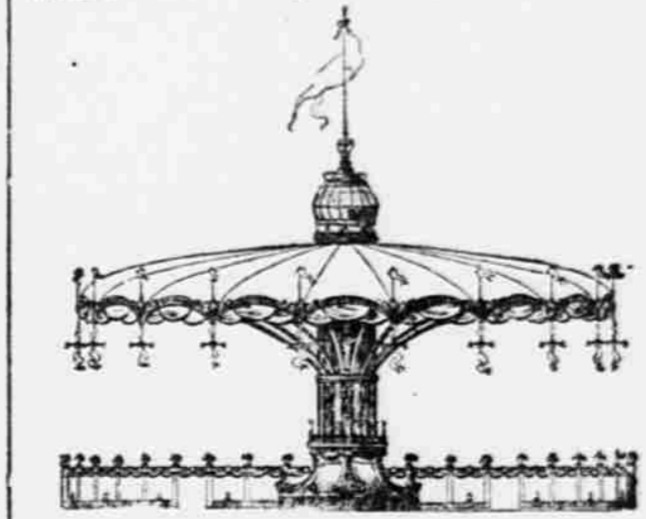
Tesla's new dynamo has changed all that. Contracts now signed insure that several important structures in New York city will be equipped with the new light. There can be no doubt that it will rapidly supplant other methods of illumination as soon as moneyed men build and operate high frequency current stations. The first cost of wires, tubes, etc., is about the same as for incandescent lighting, but the tubes have the very great virtue of not burning out after the manner of incandescent globes or carbon pencils, hence the cost of operation will be very much less.

When it comes to use there is simply no comparison possible. It is just the same as having a day twenty-four hours long. Everywhere, for every purpose, artificial daylight equals the real thing. The photograph of the inventor's hand was made at midnight, in his laboratory, with a two-second exposure. It was not only taken, but printed by the artificial daylight, yet it shows clearly the lines of the palm and the texture of cuff and sleeve.

Nothing remains now but to equip the world with proper wires, dynamos, and so on. Men with money know a good thing when they see it, even without artificial daylight, so it is very likely that in a matter of twelve months there will be practically no night in any considerable city of the world.

A Colossal Umbrella.

Thirty thousand persons are to be sheltered under a single gigantic parasol which is to be exhibited at the Paris Exposition next year by Mme. Percha-Giverne, the inventor and patentee. Her announced object in preparing the great shield is to protect great outdoor gatherings from the



GIGANTIC PARASOL FOR PARIS EXPOSITION.

scorching rays of the sun in torrid weather in the simplest manner possible. The device will also ward off the rain from the exhibition grounds if the inventor's assertions are founded on facts.

She has applied for and obtained the privilege of erecting her colossal umbrella in the grounds, and the managers are eager to find out what will happen to it the first time one of those thirty-mile gales comes whistling down the Seine. In the meantime Mme. Percha-Giverne has probably closed a contract to flash a soap or soup advertisement on the inside of that parasol to the delight and profit of some manufacturer and the everlasting benefit of the assembled multitude.

Mrs. Crimmonbeam—Has Mr. Crimmonbeam got home for dinner yet, Bridgett?

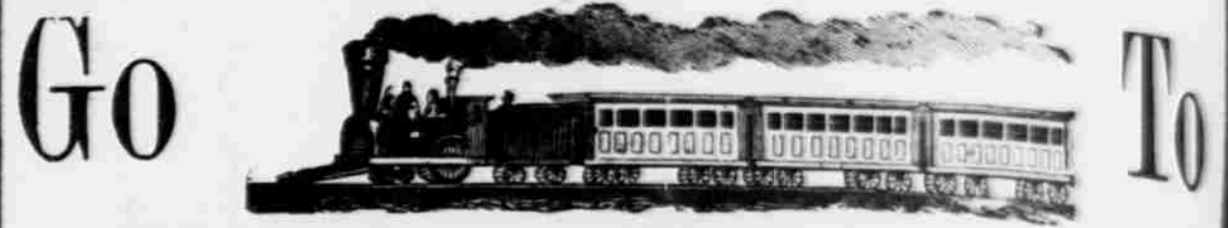
Bridgett—No, mum.

"I thought I heard him downstairs?" "Sure that was the dog you heard growling, mum."—Yonkers Statesman.

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